Popish Treaties not to be rely'd on: In a Letter from a Gentleman at *York*, to his Friend in the Prince of *ORANGE*'s Camp. *Addressed to all Members of the next Parliament.*

THE Credulity and Superstition of Mankind hath given great Opportunities and Advantages to cunning *Knaves* to spread their Nets, and lay their Traps in order to catch easie and unwary Creatures; being led on by Ignorance, or Stupidity, they Pride or Ambition, or else a Vile and Mercenary Temple; Therefore seeing we are in this State of Corruption, bred up to believe Contradictions and Impossibilities, led by the Nose with every State Mountebank, and *Monkish Juglers*, moved like *Puppets* by Strings and Wires; it seems high time to vindicate Humane Nature, and to free her from these Shackles, laid upon her in the very Cradle; for Man (who ought to be a Free and Rational *Animal*) in his present State is only an *Engine* and *Machine*, Contriv'd for the Vanity and Luxury of *Priests* and Tyrants, who claim to themselves, and seem to Monopolize the Divine *Stamp*, tho' we are all made of the same Materials, by the same Tools, and in the same Mould, equal by Nature, met together and Unite in Societies by mutual Contracts, plac'd by Arms one above another, and entrusted for some Time with the Power of executing our own Laws, and all by general consent for the Publick Good of the whole *Community*; this is the genuine Shape and Figure of Primitive and Sound Government, not distemper'd and fatally infected with the monstrous *Excrescences* of Arbitrary *Power* in one single Member above all the Laws of the *whole*; *Infallibility*, Divine *Right*, &c. started by *Knaves* and *Sycophants*, believ'd by *Fools*, who scarce ever heard of the *Greek* and *Roman* Histories, and never read their own. I shall therefore give some Examples (out of an infinite number) of People ruin'd and utterly destroy'd by their easie Credulity, and good Nature, matter of Fact being a stronger Proof, and better Rule to steer Mankind, than the empty Notions of the *Schools*, invented only to perplex and confound our Ratiocination, lest it should discover the naked Truth of things. The present Letter will confine it self only to Publick Promises, Oaths, and Solemn Contracts, scandalously violated by the *Roman Catholicks*, not with *Heathens* and *Heretics*, only, but amongst themselves: We will begin with the more remote Countries.

The *Spaniards* and *Portugueses* have acted so treacherously with the *Africans*, and the Natives of both *Indies*, that the Cruelty of the History would be incredible, if it was not related by their own Historians. Leagues and Treaties (the most Sacred under Heaven) were soon neglected, and the Spirit of their Religion broke all before it: how many Millions of those innocent Creatures were murder'd in cold Blood, and for Pastime sake with all the variety of Torments that the Devil could inspire into them; how soon were the vast Regions of *Mexico*, New *Spain*, *Peru*, *Hispaniola*, *Brasil*, &c. depopulated, above twenty Millions of the poor harmless Inhabitants being put to death in full Peace, and they the best natur'd People in the World, and very Ingenious; tho' they may seem Savages to a sort of Men, who think all *Barbarians* that differ from them in Habits, Manners, Customes, Diet, Religion, Language, *&c.* not considering that all wise Nature hath contriv'd a different Scene of things for various Climates; Nay, such is the Inhumanity of these *Catholick* Nations here at home, that they will frequently bring Strangers (settled amongst them by the Laws of Commerce) and their own fellow Subjects into the *Inquisition*, especially if they are Rich, upon a pretence of some Heretical opinion, tho' they themselves at first protect and license the Opinion; as in the case of *Molino*, whose Book had receiv'd an *Imprimatur* from most of the *Inquisitors* of *Spain* and *Italy*, and even from the Infallible *Head* of the Church, yet afterwards it was burnt, and he himself together with many of his Followers miserably torture'd; the *Pope* scarce escaping the Punishment. The Generous *Marshal Schomberg* (driven out of *France* for his great Services) who had won many Battels for the *Portugueses*, and sav'd their Country, could not be suffer'd to end his Old Age amongst them, but was forc'd in the midst of Winter to commit himself to the Sea, and fly to an inhospitable Shoar.

The present *French King* renounced all his Pretences on *Flanders*, concluded the *Pyrenean* Treaty, and swore at the Altar, not to meddle with that Country, but how well he observ'd that Sacred Covenant, *Baron D' Isola* will best inform you in his *Bouclier d'Etat*, for which he was thought to be poison'd; neither hath the *French Monarch* been contented to break all Faith and Measures with the *Spaniard*, but he hath gone about to deceive and ruine the *Pope*, *Emperour*, all the *Princes* and *Electours* of the Empire, the Prince of *Orange*, Duke of *Lorrain* the *Swisses*, the *Dutch*, and the *English*, and not only these his Neighbours and Allies, but his own Protestant Subjects, who had all the Security that Solemn *Edicts*, *Oaths*, and *Promises* could afford them, besides many other obligations upon the Crown for bringing the King to the Throne

yet all of a ſudden they found themſelves oppreſs'd and deſtroy'd by his Apoſtolical *Dragoons*, their Temples razed, their Wives and Children taken away, their Goods and Eſtates confiſcated, themſelves caſt into Priſons, ſent to the Gallies, and often ſhot at like Birds: His ſeiſing of *Lorrain*, *Franch Compté*, *Alſace*, *Strasburgh*, *Luxemburgh*, the Principality of *Orange*, the County of *Avignon*, *Philipsbourg*, the whole *Palatinate*, the Electorates of *Mentz*, *Treves*, and *Cologn*, his building of Cittadels in the *Empire* and in *Italy*, &c. are ſo contradictory to National Agreements, and Publick Treaties, that ſcarce a *Jeſuit* or a *Frenchman* can have Impudence enough to defend them; a *Banditto*, a *Pyrate*, or a *Pick-pocket* would be aſham'd of ſuch Actions; and an ordinary Man would be hang'd for a Crime a Million times leſs. His ſeiſing upon *Hudſon's* Bay, and leading the *Engliſh* into Slavery; the *French* Treachery in the Engagement at Sea between us and the *Dutch*, their frequent ſeizing of our Ships, are slight things, not worthy our Reſentment, being under the Conduct of a *Monſieur* whom the World ſo juſtly vilifies and deſpiſes.

The *Emperour* can have no good Pretence to condemn the *King* of *France*, or any other *Catholick* Prince for breach of Common Faith and Honeſty, ſince he himſelf hath plaid the ſame Game with his *Proteſtant* Subjects, inviting ſome of the Chief of the *Hungarian* Nobility to *Vienna*, under the colour of Treaty and Friendſhip, and then cutting off their Heads, ſeizing their Eſtates and Properties, deſtroying their Paſtors and Churches, and extirpating the whole Reform'd Religion, after he had promis'd and ſtipulated to protect and give them the liberty of their Conſciences. The *Pariſian Maſſacres* were carried on and executed under a Mask of Friendſhip, all the Principal *Proteſtants* of *France* being invited to the healing Marriage, to Revel and Careſs, were Barbarouſly Butcher'd at the Toll of a Bell in their Beds, when they dream'd they ſlept ſecurely. The *Iriſh Maſſacre* of above 200000 *Proteſtants* was no leſs Treacherous, it was a Copy of the *Spaniſh* Cruelty in the Weſt *Indies*, to whom the *Iriſh* are compar'd by Hiſtorians for their Idleneſs and Inhumanity, tho' not for their Wit.

The Perſecutions of the *Proteſtants* in the Valleys of *Piedmont*, are another inſtance of Popiſh Immanity and baſeneſs; they were under the common ſhelter of publick Pactions and Treaties, and had been ſolemnly own'd by the *Dukes* of *Savoy*, to be the moſt Loyal and the moſt Courageous of their Subjects. The preſent *Duke*, who undertook this laſt Periecution, was not content to deſtroy them with his own Troops, but call'd in the *French* to aſſiſt at the Comedy, to ſhoot them off the Rocks, to hunt them over the *Alps*, and to ſell the ſtrongeſt of them to the Gallies, that the very *Turkiſh* Slaves themſelves might deride and inſult over them.

Catholicks, who have not Power to Oppo[ſe] execute the ſame things, ſeem ſcrupulous [of] duct in Publick, but ſing *te Deum* in Private, ſoon as ever they have got a ſufficient Force, mit the like Barbarities, ſo eſſencial to their gion, that all the inſtinct of Nature cannot [re]them. The Holy *Father* at *Rome* (that he for a moderate and merciful *Pontificate*) or *Deum* to be Sung up and down, for the ex[tir]of Hereſy out of *France* and *Piedmont*; *Engliſh Catholicks* have given us (as their [In]tereſt encreas'd) ſeveral proofs, how [will] can juggle and diſguiſe themſelves; ſetting [up] of *Inquiſition*, turning *Proteſtants* out of [all] and even out of their Freeholds, [Ra]viſhing Charters, packing Corporations, and all under a notion of Liberty of Conſcience; they with their *Accomplices* determined [many] tions, and ſet up an Authority above all under the Cloak of a ſham Liberty of Con[ſci]racking at the very ſame time the Conſcience Church of *England* Men, and undermining [the] dation of our State. If Mr. *Penn* and [his] had condemn'd the unreaſonableneſs of the [Te]and the Diſpenſing Power, when they wrote for Liberty of Conſcience, they had their generous zeal for a juſt Freedome in Matters ligion, and at the ſame time a due reverence *Legiſlative* Power, (*Kings*, *Lords*, and [Com]the ſecret of the *Machine*) was to Make Erect a *Prerogative* above all Acts of Par and conſequently to introduce upon the *Tyranny* and *Popery*; yet, notwithſtanding uncontrouable Power, and ſhew of Grace, Eaſterly Wind, and a Fleet of Fly-Boats cancel and undo all again. Our *Monkiſh* relate of *King John*, that being in ſome diffi ſent Sir *Tho. Hardington*, and Sir *Ralph* Ambaſſadours to *Miramamolin* the great of *Morocco*, with offers of his Kingdom to him Condition he would come and aid him, and he prevail'd, he would himſelf turn and renounce *Popery*.

I will not inſiſt upon the violations of Treaties in the Low *Countries*, or the *Spaniſh* over them, becauſe the *Spaniards* have got ſo by that Perſecution and Cruelty, that they tempted to practiſe the like again; for by the *Netherlanders* to take up Arms for their and by neceſſitating *Queen Elizabeth* to aſſiſt ſerve them, they have ſet up a Free and *State* (as they themſelves have call'd them Treaties) that hath preſerv'd the languiſhing narchy of *Spain*, and the Liberty of *Chriſtendom*.

The Baſe and Cowardly *Maſſacre* of that great *William Prince of Orange*, of the Renowned *Coligny*, and the Prince of *Conde*; the many Conſpiracies for the Extirpation of the whole

of the House of *Orange*; the Murders of *Henry* the 3d. and *Henry* the 4th, are all Records and everlasting Monuments of Popish Barbarity; what incredible Effusions of Blood hath been occasion'd by the frequent revolts of the *Popes* against the Emperours, by the Image-Worship, and the Holy Wars? What Treachery in the *Bohemian* Transactions and Treaties? What Inhumanity in burning *Jerome* of *Prague*, and *John Hus*? when they had the Emperours Pass, and all other publick Securities from the Council it self, that put to Death those two Good Men.

The Reign of Queen *Mary*, is another Scene of the Infidelity and Treachery of the Church of *Rome*, what Oaths did she take, what Promises and Protestations did she make to the *Suffolk* Men who had set the Crown upon her Head; and yet they were the first that felt the strokes of a Persecution from *Her*. Read her History in *Fox*'s *Martyrs*, and Doctor *Burnet*'s History of the Reformation.

The many Conspiracies to destroy Queen *Elizabeth* and King *James*, the *Gunpowder Plot*, the Counties carried on in Popish Countries to take off King *Charles* the First, and the many late Popish Plots are a continued Series and Thred, carried on by the Church of *Rome*, to break thro' all Laws both of *God* and *Man*, to erect an Universal *Monarchy* of *Priest-craft* and to bring the whole World under their Yoke. The *Jesuits* have taken an effectuall and commendable way, to keep Popish *Priests* and *Jesuits* (those *Emissaries* and Ministers of Sedition, the declared Enemies to the Welfare of Mankind) out of their Countries, by Gelding them, and consequently rendring them incapable of Sacerdotal Functions, tho the *Priests* have found out a *Salvo*, and will say Mass and Confess, if they can procure their *Testicles* again, and carry them in their Pockets either preserv'd or in Powder! In *Æthiopia*, *China*, and *Japan*, the Roman *Priests* have been so intollerably turbulent, and such extravagant Incendiaries, that they have been often Banished and put to Death; so that now they disguise themselves all over the *Eastern* Nations, under the Names and Characters of *Mathematicians*, *Mechanicks*, *Physitians*, &c. and dare not own their Mission to propagate a *Faith*, which is grown ridiculous all over *Asia*.

The long and dreadful Civil Wars of *France*, the many *Massacres* and *Persecutions*, and lastly the Siege of *Rochel*, are living Instances how far we may rely upon Engagements and Laws, both as to the taking of that *Bulwark*, and the promised relief from hence. The *Protestant* Defenders of it, refusing to rely any longer upon Paper Edicts, and the word of a Most *Christian King*, had this *City* granted them as a cautionary Town for their Security, for before they had always been deluded out of their Advances by fair Promises, insignificant Treaties, and word of a King; yet *Lewis* the 13. following the vicious Examples of Treacherous Princes, fell upon this Glorious *City*, which, upon the account of their Laws and Privileges, made a resistance and brave defence, (having never heard of Passive Obedience amongst their Pastors) thinking it more lawful to defend their Rights, than it was for *Lewis* to invade them.

As tot the late and present *Reign* here in *England*, they are too nice and tender things for me to touch; whether the *Transactions* of them are consistant with the *Coronation Oaths*, the many *Declarations*, *Protestations*, publick and solemn Promises, I am no fit Judge; they are more proper for the Gravity of an Historian, or the Authority of a *Parliament* to handle, than for a private Gentleman in a Letter to his Friend: The Bishops Papers, and the P. of *Orange*'s *Declarations* are the best *Memoirs* of them, but they only begin, where the two parts of the History of the growth of *Popery* and *Arbitrary* Government left off, and how far we may trust to *Catholick* Stipulations, Oaths and Treaties, the facts of past and the present Age are the best *Criterions* and Rules to guide and determine us; for what happens every day, will in all probability happen to morrow, the same Causes alwaies produce the same Effects; and the Church of *Rome* is still the same Church it was a hundred years ago, that is, a Mass of Treachery, Barbarity, Perjury, and the highest Superstition; a *Machine* without any principle or setled Law of Motion, not to be moved or stopp'd with the weights of any private or publick *Obligations*; a *Monster* that destroys all that is sacred both in Heaven and Earth, so Ravenous that it is never content, unless it gets the whole World into its Claws, and tears all to pieces in order to Salvation; a *Proteus* that turns it self into all shapes, a *Chameleon* that puts on all Colours according to its present circumstances, this day an *Angel* of Light, to morrow a *Belzebub*. Amongst all the *Courts* of *Christendome* where I have Conversed, that of *Holland* is the freest from Tricks and Falsehood; and tho' I am naturally jealous and suspicious of the Conduct of *Princes*, yet I could never discover the least Knavery within those Walls, it appear'd to me another *Athens* of *Philosophers*, and the only Seat of *Justice* and *Vertue* now left in the World; as for the Character of the *Prince* of *Orange*, it is so faithfully drawn by Sir *Will. Temple*, Doctor *Burnet*, and in a half sheet lately Printed, that I, who am so averse from Flattery, that I can scarce speak a good word of any Body, or think one good thought of my self, will not write any further *Panegyrick* upon his *Highness*, only that he is a very Honest *Man*, a Great *Souldier*, and a Wise *Prince*, upon whose Word the World may safely rely. A late *Pamphleteer* reviles the *Prince* with breaking his Oath when he took the *Statholder*'s Office upon him, not considering that the Oath was impos'd upon his *Highness* in his *Minority* by a *French Faction*, then jealous of the

...ing and true Greatness of his Divine Call; that ...ssed themselves (to whom the Obligation ...forced his Highness from the Nobles, and that ...ecessity of Affairs, and the importunities of the ...forced that Dignity upon him, which his ... had enjoyd, and he so well deserv'd, that he ...d the sinking Commonwealth (their Province be... almost all Surpriz'd and Enslav'd by the Scots) ...mpered to the gasping State of Rome after the loss ...Canna; His Highness was no more puft up with ...his Success, than he had been dannted with Hard... and Misfortunes; alwaies the same Brave, Just, ...erene and Unchang'd under all Events, an Argument ...of the vastness of his Mind; whereas on the contrary, ...Mutability, (sometimes Tyrant, sometimes Father of ...Country, sometimes Huffing, other times Sneaking) ...became a Symptome of a Mean and Cowardly ...Soul, vile and dissolute, born for Rapine and ...Destruction.

As for the Princess, she may without any flattery be stiled the Honour and Glory of her Sex; the most Knowing, the most Virtuous, the Priestly and yet the best Nature'd Princess in the World; Beloved and Admir'd by her Enemies, never sent into any Passion, always under a peculiar Sweetness of Temper, extremely moderate in her Pleasures, taking delight in Working and in Study, Humble and Affable in her Conversation, very pertinent in all Questions, Charitable to all Penitents, and frequenting their Churches. The Prince is blemisht with not so at the Prayers of the Church of England, and she with the Prince, at the Devotion of his Church; she dispenses with the use of the Surplice, Bowing to the Altar, and the Name of Jesus, out of Compliance to a Country that adores their being more intent upon the Intellectuall and Substantial Parts of Religion, Prayer and Good Works. She speaks several Languages even to Perfection; is entirely Obedient to the Prince, and he extremely dear to her; In a word, She is a Princess of many extraordinary Virtues and Excellencies, without any appearance of Vanity, or the least tincture of Vice; and upon whose Promise the World may safely depend. As for the many Plots and Conspiracies against this Royal Couple, a short time may bring them all to light, and faithful Historians publish them to the World.

Lastly, We may observe that whereas it hath been the Maxim of several Kings, both at home and abroad of late years, to contend and outvie each other in Preying upon and Destroying not only their Neighbours, but their own Protestant Subjects, by all methods of Perfidiousness and Cruelty, the only way to establish Tyranny, and to enslave the Natural Freedom of Mankind, being to introduce a general Ignorance, Superstition, and Idolatry; for it is not People can be perswaded that Servitude

...their necks to all the Yokes that a Tyrant and a Priest can invent and put upon them; ... they part with their Reason, slavish Liberty ... follow; as we behold every day in the ... d Countries, where Popery domineers. ... hath always been the Subtle and Irresistible Principle of the House of Austria to remove Europe from its Oppressours, and to relapse Governments upon the Primitive and Immortal Foundation of Liberty and Property; a Glorious Maxim, taken from the Old Roman Commonwealth, ... d to many Nations, only to ... them wholsome Laws, such ... Civil Liberties; a Design to ... Government, that they Groan, ... Oppressions of their Tyrants, ... to the Roman Eagle, the Protector ... Wings they found Safety, ... happy, till Treason, ... upon the Sacred Laws ... Constitution, and to every ... Armies to destroy them by Blood and Raping, which Justice would have thrown in their Face, and Punished them as they deserved. The preservation and Welfare of the People being in all Ages call'd the Supreme Law, to which all the rest ought to bend.

In brief, the foregoing Relation of matter of Fact, it appears most plain, that the Roman Catholicks are not to be tyed by Laws, Treaties, Promises, Oaths, or any other bonds of Humane Society; the sad Experience of this and other Kingdoms declares to all Mankind the invalidity and insignificancy of all Contracts and Agreements with the Papists, who notwithstanding all their Solemn Covenants with Heretiques, do watch for all Advantages and Opportunities to destroy them, being commanded thereunto by their Councils and the principles of their Church, and inspired by their Priests.

The History of the several Wars of the Barons of England, in the Reigns of King John, Henry the Third, Edward the Second, and Richard the Second, in Defence of their Liberties, and for redressing the many Grievances (under which the Kingdom groan'd) is a full representation of the Infidelity and Treachery of those Kings, and of the Invalidity of Treaties with them; how many Grants, Amendments, and fair Promises had they from those Princes, and yet afterwards how many Ambuscades, and Snares were laid to destroy those glorious Patriots of Liberty; what Violations of Compacts and Agreements, and what havock was made upon all Advantages and Opportunities, that those false Kings could take: Read their Histories in the several Chronicles

FINIS.